

From: Ian Bicking
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 10:35pm
Subject: I do not support the settlement

As an independant developer who, I feel, has been indirectly hindered in his operations by the Microsoft monopoly, I was very unhappy to see the proposed settlement with Microsoft.

The enforcement authority as presented is far too limited in ability, too closed from public view, and easily coopted, manipulated, and deceived.

You presume that you can somehow trust Microsoft to act in a proper manner, when they have clearly shown that they are untrustworthy lawbreakers, who will purjer themselves to hide their true intents and practices. Their behavior during the suit was absolutely disgraceful. Their extensive use of astroturf "grassroots" support shows how little true support they have. This cannot be ignored.

For the settlement to have any real effect, it must not give Microsoft future negotiating power. You cannot let them define things as being "security related" and then hide them. You cannot let them say they are doing a best effort, when that best effort is not successful. You cannot let them say anything, because they will *certainly* lie.

The proposed settlement is clearly not in the interest of the People of the United States. If it takes longer to get a ruling that you can enforce, then so be it -- the compromises you propose are far, far too great, and practically an encouragement to Microsoft that they can blatantly break the law and not receive significant punishment.

I also hope you take into consideration the fact that some of the pro-Microsoft/pro-settlement feedback will be fraudulent, as Microsoft has done exactly this sort of thing before. If you do find evidence of this, I hope you make it public, and even better prosecute those who would manipulate the system in such a non-democratic and dishonest manner.

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